

MLA Citation Style

Library Guide



Adapted from the 8th edition (2016) of the *MLA Handbook*.

MLA Style

MLA is the documentation style used for academic writing in the humanities and liberal arts.

MLA style requires that you cite your sources within your paper, using in-text (parenthetical) citations, and at the end of your work, in the form of a works cited list. The works cited list must be arranged in alphabetical order, containing full information regarding the cited sources. This includes all of the material that has been quoted, summarized, and/or paraphrased.

The 8th edition of the *MLA Style Manual* contains several significant changes. No longer are there models for the citation of different types of sources. Instead, MLA has created a template of essential information (core elements) to include for any type of source used during research and referenced in a work.

This guide provides an overview, with the most common citation examples in the MLA style. For further information and examples, please refer to the *MLA Handbook* and the MLA website, *MLA Style Center*.

Works Cited

Works Cited is a list containing detailed entries of all sources used in a work and must include the following:

- Displayed on a new page, at the end of a work
- Double-spaced entries
- Entries with more than one line must be indented by 1.25 cm starting on the second line
- Entries must be arranged alphabetically, by author's last name or by title (if no author)
- Replicate the format of the author's name as it appears on the title page of a work, unless the author's name needs to be reversed to have last name first
- Titles of containers or stand-alone texts are *italicized* (e.g. anthologies, novels, journals, short-story collections, and full-length plays)
- Quotation marks are placed around titles of sources within containers (e.g. short stories, articles, and individual poems)
- All major words in the title should be capitalized

For additional information, please consult pages 19 to 53 in the *MLA Handbook*.

In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations

In-text citations are a brief reference to a source in the body of a work. When incorporating another's ideas, words, or facts in a direct quotation or by paraphrasing, parenthetical acknowledgment is required. Briefly citing information within the text enables readers to easily identify a more detailed entry of the source in the Works Cited list.

For additional information, please consult pages 54 to 58 in the *MLA Handbook*.

The Core Elements

MLA's approach of documenting core elements enables any source to be cited. The core elements are key aspects of information that should be common to all types of sources.

In a Works Cited list, each entry will contain some of the core elements as well as potentially some optional elements. Optional elements are dependent on the type of source used and its available information. If an element is not relevant to a source that is being documented, it should be omitted from the entry.

If a source belongs to a larger entity, the larger entity is then recognized as a container that holds the source. Examples of containers include anthology of poetry, a journal containing articles, or a television series containing episodes. There can be an additional container that holds another entire container, such as Netflix containing a mini-series or a Database containing journals.

The core elements are listed below in the order in which they should appear. Following each element is the punctuation mark that should follow (with the exception of it being the final element, which should end with a period):

Author.	
Title of source.	
Container 1	
Title of container,	
Other contributors,	
Version,	
Number,	
Publisher,	
Publication date,	
Location.	
Container 2	
Title of container,	
Other contributors,	
Version,	
Number,	
Publisher,	
Publication date,	
Location.	

Use the [MLA practice template](#) to organize information required for the documentation of your sources in a works cited list. For additional information, please consult pages 19 to 53 in the *MLA Handbook*.

Source: Book, Book Chapters, E-books, and Related Items

Core Elements: Author. Title of Source. Publisher, Publication Date.

MLA Handbook	Source	Works Cited	In-Text Citation
p. 21	Book: 1 author	Rubin, James H. <i>Impressionism and the Modern Landscape: Productivity, Technology, and Urbanization from Manet to Van Gogh</i> . U of California P, 2008.	(Rubin 59)
p. 21	Book: 2 authors	Egoff, Sheila, and Judith Saltman. <i>The New Republic of Childhood: A Critical Guide to Canadian Children's Literature in English</i> . Oxford UP, 1990.	(Egoff and Saltman 123)
p. 22	Book: 3 or more authors	Barnet, Richard D., et al. <i>The Story Behind the Song: 150 Songs that Chronical the 20th Century</i> . Greenwood Press, 2004.	(Barnet et al. 88)
p. 34 and 37-8, and sec. 3.3.3 and 1.6.2-3	E-Book: from a database	Mercat-Bruns, Marie. <i>Discrimination at Work: Comparing European, French, and American Law</i> , translated by Elaine Holt, U of California P, 2016. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctt1ffjn61 .	(Mercat-Bruns 71)
p. 35 and sec. 3.3.3	E-Book: with print publication data	Lees, Loretta, et al. <i>Planetary Gentrification</i> . John Wiley & Sons, 2016. <i>Google Books</i> , books.google.ca/books?isbn=1509505903 .	(Lees et al. ch. 2)
p. 23	Edited book or editor as author	Daley, James, editor. <i>100 Great Short Stories</i> . Dover Publications, 2015.	(Daley 620)
p. 27, 122 and sec. 3.3.2	Poem or short story (in an edited collection)	Cuthand, Beth. "For All the Settlers Who Secretly Sing." 1992. <i>Native Poetry in Canada: A Contemporary Anthology</i> , edited by Jeannette C. Armstrong and Lally Grauer, Broadview Press, 2001, pp. 133-4.	First Citation: (Cuthand lines 30-36) Subsequent Citations: (Cuthand 32)
p. 27 and sec. 3.3.2	Chapter, article or essay (in an edited collection)	Lai, Larissa. "The Time has Come: Self and Community Articulations in Colour. <i>An Issue and Awakening Thunder</i> ." <i>Shifting the Ground of Canadian Literary Studies</i> , edited by Smaro Kamboureli and Robert Zacharias, Wilfred Laurier UP, 2012, pp. 151-72.	(Lai 152)
pp. 31, 37, and 40	Comic book	Willingham, Bill. <i>March of the Wooden Soldiers. Fables</i> , vol. 4, DC Comics, 2004.	(Willingham 200)
pp. 24 and 27	Reference work: Print entry (with no author)	"Folk Song." <i>The Oxford Companion to English Literature</i> , edited by Dinah Birch, 7 th ed., Oxford UP, 2009, p. 381.	("Folk Song" 381)

pp. 24 and 27	Reference work: Print entry (with author)	Conrad, Margaret. "Historiography." <i>Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada</i> , edited by W.H. New U of Toronto P, 2002, pp. 499-503.	(Conrad 500)
pp. 24, 27, 35, and 48, and sec. 2.5.2	Reference work: Online entry	Chafe, Wallace. "Linguistics and the Study of Consciousness." <i>The Oxford Companion to Consciousness</i> , edited by Patrick Wilken et al., Oxford UP, 2009, pp. 409-11. search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=749013&site=eds-live.	(Chafe 411)

Source: Journal and Magazine Articles

Core Elements: Author. Title of Source. Title of Container, Number, Publication Date, Location.
Title of 2nd Container, Location.

MLA Handbook	Source	Works Cited	In-Text Citation
pp. 30 and 39-40	Journal article: Print	Lavoie, Chantel. "Good Enough, Bad Enough, Animal, Monster: Mothers in Alice Munro's <i>The Love of a Good Monster</i> ." <i>Studies in Canadian Literature</i> , vol. 40, no. 2, 2015, pp. 69-87.	(Lavoie 70)
p. 48	e-Journal article: Retrieved online (only published on the web)	Cateridge, James. "Deep Mapping and Screen Tourism: The Oxford of Harry Potter and Inspector Morse." <i>Humanities</i> , vol. 4, no. 3, 2015, pp. 320-333, doi:10.3390/h4030320.	(Cateridge 321)
p. 48 and sec. 2.5.2	Journal article: Retrieved from a database, with a DOI	Díaz-Vera, Javier E. "On Saying Two Things at Once: The Historical Semantics and Pragmatics of Old English Emotion Words." <i>Folia Linguistica</i> , vol. 35. 2014, pp. 101-134. <i>Academic Search Complete</i> , doi:10.1515/flih.2014.003.	(Díaz-Vera 111)
p. 48 and sec. 2.5.2	Journal article: Retrieved from a database, without DOI (provide a stable URL, if available)	Logie, John. "Lost in Translation: The Influence of 20th Century Literary Theory on Plato's Texts." <i>Rhetoric Society Quarterly</i> , vol. 34, no. 1, 2004, pp. 47-71. www.jstor.org/stable/40232420.	(Logie 50-51)
p. 46	Magazine article: Print	Lorinc, John. "Stand Down". <i>The Walrus</i> , July. -Aug. 2014, pp. 50-61.	(Lorinc 52)
pp. 43 and 48	Magazine article: Retrieved online	Ross, Alex. "When Music is Violence." <i>The New Yorker</i> , 4 July 2016, www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/07/04/when-music-is-violence.	(Ross)

p. 30 and sec. 3.3.1	Newspaper article: Print	Cooper, Michael, and Al Baker. "Fan's Last Wish Led to Scare at Met Opera." <i>The New York Times</i> , 31 Oct. 2016, p. C1.	(Cooper and Baker C1)
pp. 30 and 48, and sec. 2.6.1	Newspaper article: Retrieved from a database	Wente, Margaret. "If Trump Wins, I'll Eat this Column: Forget about Hope and Change – This Presidential Election is all about Fear and Loathing." <i>The Globe and Mail</i> , 19 Mar. 2016, p. F9. <i>Canadian Newsstream</i> , search.proquest.com/docview/1774288072?accountid=11849.	(Wente F9)
p. 48	Newspaper article: Retrieved online	French, Janet. "Fort McMurray Wildfire: A Small Fire turns into the Beast." <i>Edmonton Journal</i> , 13 May 2016, edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/fort-mcmurray-wildfire-a-small-fire-turns-into-the-beast.	(French)

Source: Media and Web Documents

Core Elements: Author. Title of Source. Title of Container, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.
Optional Element – Date of Access.

MLA Handbook	Source	Works Cited	In-Text Citation
p. 24 and 29	Social media post	@Gladwell (Malcolm Gladwell). "Creating a sense of entitlement costs way more than you'd think." <i>Twitter</i> , 20 Aug. 2015, 11:49 a.m., twitter.com/Gladwell/status/634437151065776128.	(@Gladwell)
pp. 24, 28, 30, 33, 37, and 41	Film or television	<i>Inside Out</i> . Directed by Pete Docter and Ronnie Del Carmen, performance by Amy Poehler et al., Walt Disney Pictures / Pixar Animation Studios, 2015. "The Winds of Winter." <i>Game of Thrones</i> , created by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, season 6, episode 10, Home Box Office, 2016.	(<i>Inside Out</i>) ("The Winds of Winter")
pp. 37 and 52	Performance	<i>Chelsea Hotel – The Songs of Leonard Cohen</i> . Conceived and directed by Tracey Power, 28 Nov. 2015, Keyano Theatre, Fort McMurray. Performance.	(<i>Chelsea Hotel</i>)
pp. 28-9 and 49-50	Visual art: Retrieved online	Klimt, Gustav. "Die Künste." <i>Beethoven Fries</i> . 1902. Klimt Museum, Vienna, www.klimt.com/en/gallery/beethoven-frieze/details-klimt-beethovenfries-kuenste.dhtml. Accessed 30 Sep. 2016.	(Klimt)

pp. 28, 37 and 57, and sec. 2.1.2	Sound recording (specific track and entire album)	Voces8. "For Now I Am Winter." Composed by Olafur Arnalds and Arnor Dan Arnarson. <i>Winter</i> , Decca (UMO) Classics, 2016. Elgar, Edward. Elgar Sea Pictures. Performance by Hallé Orchestra and Alice Coote, conducted by Mark Elder, Hallé Concerts Society, 2015.	(Voces8 00:02:35-4:45) (Elgar)
pp. 42 and 44	Streaming (Online) Video	"Margaret Atwood on her latest dystopian novel "The Heart Goes Last." <i>YouTube</i> , uploaded by Q on CBC, 30 Sep. 2015, youtu.be/HW7LkFZGg6w?list=PL-VDBIMh2vQ24SAG0wffmwWSR4fMBhgkQ . Shellenberger, Michael. "How Fear of Nuclear Power is Hurting the Environment." <i>TED</i> , TEDSummit, June 2016, www.ted.com/talks/michael_shellenberger_how_fear_of_nuclear_power_is_hurting_the_environment?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=tedspread .	("Margaret Atwood" 00:10:36-13:25) (Shellenberger 00:04:23-13:58)
pp. 28, 30, 48, 53, and sec. 2.5.2	Entire website	<i>Alberta College of Social Workers</i> . Alberta College of Social Workers, 2016, www.acsw.ab.ca . Accessed 15 Oct. 2016.	(<i>Alberta College of Social Workers</i>)
pp. 28, 48, 30, 53, and sec. 2.5.2	Website: Single page (unknown author and known author)	"The Secret to Better Learning that Most People Don't Know." <i>PSYBLOG</i> , 3 Sep. 2015, www.spring.org.uk/2015/09/the-secret-to-better-learning-that-most-people-dont-know.php . Accessed 10 Oct. 2016. Lee, Karen. "Benedict Arnold's Journey from Hero to Traitor." <i>History & Culture</i> . Biography, 28 Sep. 2016, www.biography.com/news/benedict-arnold-american-revolution . Accessed 4 Oct. 2016.	("Secret to Better Learning") (Lee)
pp. 48, 53, and sec. 2.1.3.	Canadian Statute	Canada Elections Act. S.C. 2000, c. 9, Government of Canada, 26 Oct. 2016, http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/E-2.01/index.html .	(Canada Elections Act sec. 148)
p. 37, 54-7	Audio clip (such as a podcast): Retrieved online	Dubner, Stephen. "How Much Does Your Name Matter?" <i>Freakonomics Radio</i> , 8 Apr. 2013, freakonomics.com/podcast/how-much-does-your-name-matter-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/ .	(Dubner)

Sample List of Works Cited

Works Cited

- Barnet, Richard D., et al. *The Story Behind the Song: 150 Songs that Chronical the 20th Century*. Greenwood Press, 2004.
- Cooper, Michael, and Al Baker. "Fan's Last Wish Led to Scare at Met Opera." *The New York Times*, 31 Oct. 2016, p. C1.
- Cuthand, Beth. "For All the Settlers Who Secretly Sing." 1992. *Native Poetry in Canada: A Contemporary Anthology*, edited by Jeannette C. Armstrong and Lally Grauer, Broadview Press, 2001, pp. 133-4.
- Díaz-Vera, Javier E. "On Saying Two Things at Once: The Historical Semantics and Pragmatics of Old English Emotion Words." *Folia Linguistica*, vol. 35. 2014, pp. 101-134. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1515/flih.2014.003.
- Elgar, Edward. Elgar Sea Pictures. Performance by Hallé Orchestra and Alice Coote, conducted by Mark Elder, Hallé Concerts Society, 2015.
- "Folk Song." *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, edited by Dinah Birch, 7th ed., Oxford UP, 2009, p. 381.
- Klimt, Gustav. "Die Künste." *Beethoven Fries*. 1902. Klimt Museum, Vienna, www.klimt.com/en/gallery/beethoven-frieze/details-klimt-beethovenfries-kuenste.dhtml. Accessed 30 Sep. 2016.
- Ross, Alex. "When Music is Violence." *The New Yorker*, 4 July 2016, www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/07/04/when-music-is-violence.
- Rubin, James H. *Impressionism and the Modern Landscape: Productivity, Technology, and Urbanization from Manet to Van Gogh*. U of California P, 2008.
- Voces8. "For Now I Am Winter." Composed by Olafur Arnalds and Arnor Dan Arnarson. *Winter*, Decca (UMO) Classics, 2016.

Understanding MLA Citation Style

Author/Creator

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 21-25 and sec. 2.1)

The first author's name is presented as **last name, first name** and, if given, **middle name** in full.

Two authors is presented as first author **last name, first name**, and first **last name** of the second author's name.

Three or more authors is presented as first author **last name, first name, et al.** ("et al" means and others).

Finish the **author/creator** with a **period**.

Title of Source

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 25-29 and sec. 1.2 and 2.2)

The title is presented in full as is found in the source.

Standardize the capitalization and punctuation of a main title and subtitle (words like "the", "is", "with" or "of" are not capitalized).

Place the title in **quotation marks** if the source belongs to a larger work.

Italicize the title if the source is self-contained or independent.

End the **title** with a **period**.

Title of Container (Journal)

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 30-36)

To document a source part of a collection or anthology, include a container.

Standardize the capitalization and punctuation of the container title (words like "the", "is", "with" or "of" are not capitalized).

The title of a container is **italicized**.

End the **container** with a **comma**.

Number

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 39-40 and sec. 1.4)

To identify a source belonging to a numbered sequence, include terms to indicate its position within the sequence.

Journal articles are presented by **vol.** for volume and **no.** for a specific issue.

End the **number** with a **comma**.

Location (page number or page range)

(*MLA Handbook*, p. 46)

The location of text is preceded by **p.** for a **page number** or preceded by **pp.** for a **range of pages**.

End the **location** with a **period**.

Title of Container (database)

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 30-36)

If the source belongs to a collection that is found in a larger entity, include a second container, **italicize** the **title** of the container.

End the **larger (second) container** with a **comma**.

Location (DOI or URL)

(*MLA Handbook*, p. 48)

If available, include a **digital object identifier (DOI)** at the end of a citation.

If there is no DOI, present a **stable URL**.

End the **location** with a **period**.

Schafer, Sylvia. "Still Turning: Language, "Theory," and History's Fascination with the New." *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2012, pp. 165-174. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1215/10407391-1629848.

(Schafer 169)

Author/Creator

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 54-58 and sec. 3.1)

The **last name** of a source's author is the first item to be listed in an in-text (parenthetical) citation.

Location

(*MLA Handbook*, pp. 54-58 and sec. 3.3.2-3 and 3.6)

Indicate the page(s) from which material has been quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.